

## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10-12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-12 are currently pending in the application.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants submit that claim 11 is appropriately directed to a computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions, as interpreted by the Examiner. In the present invention, the management device can be a type of computer.

The examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gill in view of Vijayan. More specifically, the examiner asserts that Vijayan teaches checking and detecting inconsistency if an event corresponding to the condition of each customer service device does not match registered event management information.

Vijayan is directed to a method of monitoring faults in a computer network. Upon receiving a set of an event, a host, and an FMP, the fault management system 430 checks their validities by consulting a database. If the event or host is not defined in the database, the process is stopped. If the event and host are defined, correlation is performed.

As reflected in the claims of the present invention, inconsistency is checked and detected if an event corresponding to the condition of each customer service device does not match registered event management information, and an alerting instruction is added to action that should be performed when inconsistency is detected. As a result of these steps, an alert action will be performed when inconsistency is detected.

In Vijayan, when the event or host is not defined in the database, the process is simply stopped, which is different from what occurs in the present invention, as the present invention adds an alerting instruction to action that should be performed. Adding an alerting instruction (thus, subsequently performing the alerting action) when inconsistency is detected is neither disclosed nor suggested in Vijayan. Gill adds nothing to Vijayan, with respect to the above-identified feature.

Accordingly, neither Gill nor Vijayan, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of the present invention.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 10-12 are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented above. As dependent claims 3-9 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented above for the independent claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of the Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

6/21/06

By:

  
Reginald D. Lucas  
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501